

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A method for producing 3-methyl-2-butenyl acetate which comprises reacting 3-methyl-2-buten-1-ol with acetic anhydride in the presence of an inorganic base catalyst.
2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein an alkali metal acetate is used as the inorganic base.
3. (original) The method according to claim 2, wherein potassium acetate is used as the alkali metal acetate.
4. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the inorganic base is in the range of 0.01 to 0.2 mole relative to 1 mole of 3-methyl-2-buten-1-ol.
5. (original) A method for producing purified 3-methyl-2-butenyl acetate which comprises subjecting crude 3-methyl-2-butenyl acetate to a step (A) of making it contact with an aqueous solution of an alkali metal hydrogen sulfite, or a step (B) of making it contact with an aqueous solution of a base, or both steps (A) and (B).
6. (original) The method according to claim 5, which comprises subjecting crude 3-methyl-2-butenyl acetate to the step (A), and next to the step (B).
7. (original) The method according to claim 6, wherein the aqueous solution of the base is an aqueous solution of an alkali metal hydrogen carbonate.

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

8. (original) The method according to claim 5, wherein an impurity contained in the crude 3-methyl-2-butenyl acetate is an carboxylic acid and/or an aldehyde.

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the crude 3-methyl-2-butenyl acetate is ~~that obtained by the method according to any one of claims 1 to 4~~
reacting 3-methyl-2-buten-1-ol with acetic anhydride in the presence of an inorganic base catalyst.